WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for performing gradation matching between images formed by a first output unit and a second output unit which have different gradation-reproduction ranges, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

setting first-output-unit information on said first output unit;

setting output-medium information for use in said second output unit; and

finding an output-gradation reproduction curve from the first-output-unit information and the output-medium information.

2. An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said first output unit is a monitor.

3. An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the first-output-unit information is a gradation characteristic of a monitor.

4. An image processing method according to Claim 3, wherein the first-output-unit information is set by a user.

5. An image processing method according to Claim 3, wherein the first-output-unit information is set by reading predetermined data.

6. An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said second output unit is a printer.

7. An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the output-medium information for use in said second output unit is a paper type.

8. An image processing method according to Claim 7, where the output-medium information for use in said second output unit is set by a user.

9. An image processing method for performing gradation matching between images formed by a first output unit and a second output unit which have different gradation-reproduction ranges, wherein a lightness changing process by said second output unit is operatively associated with the gradation-reproduction range of said second output unit, and a contrast changing process by said second output unit is operatively associated with the gradation-characteristic curve of said first output unit.

10. An image processing method according to Claim 9, wherein said first output unit is a monitor.

11. An image processing method according to Claim 10, wherein said second output unit is a printer.

12. An image processing method according to Claim 9, wherein the gradation-characteristic curve of said second output unit is set based on the gradation-reproduction range of said second output unit and the gradation-characteristic curve of said first output unit.

13. An image processing method for performing gradation matching between images formed by a first output unit and a second output unit which have different gradation-reproduction ranges, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

controlling said first output unit to output a gradation image in accordance with image data representing gradation;

controlling said second output unit to output a plurality of gradation images corresponding to the results of different gradation processes on the image data representing gradation;

inputting information for, from among the plurality of

gradation images output from said second output unit,
selecting a gradation image corresponding to said gradation
image output from said first output unit; and

setting gradation conversion conditions for said second
output unit by using the selected gradation image as a
target.

14. An image processing method according to Claim 13,
wherein said first output unit is a monitor.

15. An image processing method according to Claim 13,
wherein each gradation image is a gray scale image.

16. An image processing apparatus for performing
gradation matching between images formed by a first output
unit and a second output unit which have different
gradation-reproduction ranges, said image processing
apparatus comprising:

means for setting first-output-unit information on said
first output unit;

means for setting output-medium information for use in
said second output unit; and

means for finding an output-gradation reproduction
curve from the first-output-unit information and the output-
medium information.

17. An image processing apparatus for performing gradation matching between images formed by a first output unit and a second output unit which have different gradation-reproduction ranges, said image processing apparatus comprising:

means for operatively associating a lightness changing process performed by said second output unit with the gradation-reproduction range of said second output unit; and

means for operatively associating a contrast changing process performed by said second output unit with the gradation-characteristic curve of said first output unit.

18. An image processing apparatus for performing gradation matching between images formed by a first output unit and a second output unit which have different gradation-reproduction ranges, said image processing apparatus comprising:

means for controlling said first output unit to output a gradation image in accordance with image data representing gradation;

means for controlling said second output unit to output a plurality of gradation images corresponding to the results of different gradation processes on the image data representing gradation;

input means for inputting information for, from among
the plurality of gradation images output from said second
output unit, selecting a gradation image corresponding to
said gradation image output from said first output unit; and

setting means for setting gradation conversion
conditions for said second output unit by using the selected
gradation image as a target.

19. A recording medium containing a program for
implementing an image processing method for performing
gradation matching between images formed by a first output
unit and a second output unit which have different
gradation-reproduction ranges, the program comprising the
steps of:

setting first-output-unit information on said first
output unit;

setting output-medium information for use in said
second output unit; and

finding an output-gradation reproduction curve from the
first-output-unit information and the output-medium
information.

20. A recording medium containing a program for
implementing an image processing method for performing
gradation matching between images formed by a first output

unit and a second output unit which have different
gradation-reproduction ranges, the program comprising the
steps of:

operatively associating a lightness changing process
performed by said second output unit with the gradation-
reproduction range of said second output unit; and

operatively associating a contrast changing process
performed by said second output unit with the gradation-
characteristic curve of said first output unit.

21. A recording medium containing a program for
implementing an image processing method for performing
gradation matching between images formed by a first output
unit and a second output unit which have different
gradation-reproduction ranges, the program comprising the
steps of:

controlling said first output unit to output a
gradation image in accordance with image data representing
gradation;

controlling said second output unit to output a
plurality of gradation images corresponding to the results
of different gradation processes on the image data
representing gradation;

inputting information for, from among the plurality of
gradation images output from said second output unit,

selecting a gradation image corresponding to said gradation image output from said first output unit; and

setting gradation conversion conditions for said second output unit by using the selected gradation image as a target.